



Foundation

Annual Report

For the year ended March 31, 2025

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Letter from Ken Cretney

As Chair of the Vancouver Community College (VCC) Foundation Board for 14 years, it's a great privilege to lead this dedicated Board in support of the College's growth. As is true in the tourism and hospitality industry, where I've spent my career, growth and success are rarely found in isolation. Rather, success is the result of diverse people contributing unique skills, helping willingly, working hard, and having fun. This is how we get the job done, and this is what I admire about the VCC Foundation and the wider VCC community.

The 2024 Annual Report showcases how this collaborative approach leads to student success. Donors, faculty, administrators, volunteers, and students all contribute. Many also take bold chances – whether it's returning to school later in life or writing a new chapter in VCC's story. This is why VCC is the oldest post-secondary institute in the province, why students report above average learning outcomes, and how VCC is building the Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI). This next phase will transform our region's educational landscape – a bold move indeed.

The VCC Foundation will continue to focus on enhancing access to practical, progressive, and impactful education. Donors are essential to this mission by ensuring scholarships, bursaries, awards, and other support ensuring students can concentrate on real learning for real change.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Ken Cretney

Board Chair, VCC Foundation



Letter from Moira Gookstetter

In a world that can feel somewhat unpredictable, one thing that we can always rely on is the value of higher education. Part of what makes Vancouver Community College (VCC) so special is that we focus on lowering barriers and increasing access to education so that no one is excluded from learning.

The VCC Foundation plays an integral role in supporting students from all walks of life – from single parents to high school graduates to international students to people who face learning challenges. Our generous community of donors funds student scholarships, as well as a Computer Lending Library, free psychoeducational assessments, and improved access to food programs. We have seen countless students take these opportunities and soar.

Like the VCC student body, the VCC Foundation community of donors is unique and inspiring. Many of you have a personal connection to the school; others simply see the intrinsic value of low-barrier, high-quality education. VCC's next chapter is going to catapult its standing from “diamond in the rough” to a leader in post-secondary education. The new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI) will provide students with cutting-edge education in clean energy and other trailblazing programs. We are so excited to support them.

Whatever your inspiration for becoming a donor, thank you for your dedication. We can never know exactly how far your impact will reach, but we know our world is better for it.



Moira Gookstetter

Executive Director, VCC Foundation

2024 by the Numbers

Endowment Balance	Endowment Donations	Annual & Other Donations
\$12,762,668	\$69,632	\$2,753,262
An increase of \$108,844		
Number Of Donors	Total Raised	
353	\$2,823,881	

With the support of donors like you, we:

Distributed awards and bursaries to	Distributed
872 Students	\$665,539
	in scholarships and bursaries
Distributed	Created
90 Entrance Awards	13 New Awards
36 more than last year	for students

VCC has one of the lowest per credit tuition rates in the province to help keep education accessible, but many students require financial support to pursue their goals. Awards, scholarships, and bursaries help students improve financial stability, while providing them with important recognition for their hard work and dedication.

A special thank you to the following donors who created new awards this year:

Dr. P. Nunoda Endowment	Dr. Daniel Wong Scholarship
John Patterson Endowment	VCC International Regional Entrance Awards
Irene June Wealick Memorial Award	Still Interpreting Award
Pathfinder Hospitality Award	Weissach Foundation Award
Tayybeh Award	PS&Co/PS&Community Award
Mejuri Design Excellence Award	India Mahila Association Award
Sharon Fraser Memorial Award	

Your Donations at Work



Watch the VCC 2024 Fall Student Awards Video



Watch the VCC 2025 Spring Student Awards Video



VCC and Adler University are Partners for Student Success

In September 2024, VCC and the VCC Foundation **partnered** with Adler University to improve accessibility and learning opportunities for students. The collaboration provides students experiencing undiagnosed learning challenges with access to psychoeducational assessments. These evaluations are often the first step students need to secure learning supports, such as extra time on exams.

The innovative partnership supports learners from both institutions. Student clinicians from Adler Community Health Services (ACHS) conduct the assessments; and VCC's **Student Services** and **Accessibility Services** departments customize resources and accommodations for VCC students. The program also reinforces our commitment to prioritizing education access for people with disabilities and learning challenges.

Thanks to generous donors, the VCC Foundation covers the costs of these assessments, which would otherwise be out of reach for many students.

"This unique project demonstrates how donor support can make a direct and meaningful impact on student success,"

Moira Gookstetter, Executive Director, VCC Foundation.



Left to Right: Bradley O'Hara (Executive Dean, Adler University), Kevin Osten-Garner (Executive Director of ACHS), Clayton Munro (Associate VP of Student Services, VCC), Lisa Coleman (President, Adler University), Ajay Patel (President & CEO, VCC)

Dr. Kes Chetty MOSAIC Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of donors like Gillian Chetty and the late Dr. Kes Chetty, two VCC students received MOSAIC Education Scholarships this year. These scholarships recognize students from a non-English-speaking country who are continuing their education in Canada. This year's recipients, Viktoriia Bosak and Zarema Smazova, reflect the compassion, integrity and generous spirit of Dr. Chetty for whom the scholarships are named.

Award Recipients Spotlight



Left to Right: Dr. Kes Chetty MOSAIC Scholarship Recipients Viktoriia Bosak and Zarema Smazova with VCC President & CEO Ajay Patel

"I recently came to Canada from Ukraine, and adjusting to a new environment has been challenging. Studying at VCC has provided me with many valuable lessons and experiences. This award serves as a constant inspiration for me to reach new heights. I hope to continue learning at VCC and pursue my career in Canada.

I am truly grateful to be chosen for this award among my college peers. Thank you for your contribution to my life."

Viktoriia Bosak, Language Instruction for Newcomers, School of Arts & Sciences

"I am from Kyrgyzstan and moved to Canada in 2020. I have two children, a daughter and a son, both under 3 years old. Back home, I studied to be a teacher and aspire to continue my studies and teach children in the future.

For a donor who may read this, I would like to say: thank you for everything you are doing for us, especially now when we have inflation, and everything has become unreachable for middle-class and low-income families, for example, to study and find a better job. You are allowing us to find a better life for us and our kids. This life is a boomerang: if you do something good for others, it will come back to you twice."

Zarema Smazova, ESL Pathways Standard, School of Arts & Sciences

Outstanding Alumni Awards

VCC celebrated its 2024 Outstanding Alumni Award (OAA) recipients with a reception at the Broadway Campus on May 9, 2024. These awards recognize the remarkable career and community achievements of former VCC students.

Ali Rajabi Memar - Career Success

As a graduate of the Licensed Practical Nursing & Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs, Ali inspires nurses through his many roles with Providence Health.

Talita Zampieri Lima Mendes - Career Success

Talita was an international student from Brazil and studied cosmetology at VCC. She has since opened two successful businesses, while providing VCC students opportunities for study and mentorship.

Samantha Rematore - Community Contribution

Samantha is a graduate of VCC's Health Unit Coordinator Program. At St. Paul's Hospital, she has initiated programs that ensure quality patient care and enhance and elevate the community environment. She continues to help future graduates by supporting VCC classes.

Lloyd Taganahan - One to Watch

Lloyd is a Red Seal Chef and was the first Pinoy chef in Vancouver to receive a Michelin Recommendation. Chef Lloyd hosts VCC practicum students and creates a positive, healthy kitchen culture.



Left to Right: Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients Talita Zampieri Lima Mendes, Lloyd Taganahan, Samantha Rematore, Ali Rajabi Memar

Giving Tuesday Nourishes Student Success

Food security is a growing concern across British Columbia, with an increasing number of people turning to food banks for support. Students are often among those who struggle to stay nourished.

This year's **Giving Tuesday** campaign, Y.P. Heung Foundation, and the VCC Foundation's community of donors gave more than \$75,000 toward the College's food security programs. Thanks to this generosity, students have increased access to free food pantries and gift cards for groceries and meals.

Watch the VCC Giving Tuesday 2024 Video



Asian Culinary Fundraising Dinner

In June 2024, the VCC Foundation hosted a fundraising dinner at JJ's Restaurant to support the VCC Asian Culinary Arts team bound for the World Asian Culinary Competition. Guests, sponsors, and donors generously donated \$27,600 and enjoyed an eight-course meal that served as a practice run for the competition.

The Honourable Minister Anne Kang emceed the event, while the Honourable Ministers Bruce Ralston and George Chow and MLA Henry Yao were among the group of esteemed guests. The VCC Foundation is also grateful to lead donor, the Jean Ip Foundation, as well as sponsors Lee Kum Ki, Kirin, Hook & Herd, and Intercity Packers for their support.

VCC alums James Cen, Toby Chen, Ken Lu, Kevin Soo and VCC chef instructor Jie Wen won silver in the School Team category. Their success was thanks in part to VCC chef instructors Sonny Ho, Barry Tsang and Jie Wen who spent four months supervising the team.



Esteemed guests who attended the Asian Culinary fundraising dinner at JJ's Restaurant included Ministers, MLAs, VCC leadership, VCC instructors, and representatives from local businesses and international organizations



Left to Right: Chef instructor Jie Wen with VCC student alums Ken Yu, James Cen, Toby Chen, and team anchor Kevin Soo

New NCDA Fund Puts VCC Students in the Pole Position

The **New Car Dealers' Association (NCDA)** of BC is the leading auto industry trade organization in the province, representing 400 franchise auto dealers. The organization is a powerful advocate for innovation in the auto industry and understands the importance of a well-educated workforce.

In 2024, the VCC Foundation was thrilled when the NCDA announced it would support five students in VCC's automotive programs per year with \$2,000 scholarships.

This is an exciting start to a new partnership with the NCDA, as VCC progresses construction on the new Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation (CCEAI). Future students will be able to learn in a state-of-the-art automotive educational shop, while choosing from new programs like:

- Auto Service Technology – Zero Emissions Vehicle Specialization
- Auto Service Management Technology – Zero Emissions Vehicle Specialization
- Automotive Electronics Repair Technology
- Heavy Vehicle Technology – Alternative Energy and Zero Emission Specialization

"In the coming years, there will be many exciting opportunities in our industry, and supporting students pursuing their education means that we will have a vibrant, educated workforce who are ready to become leaders in the quickly changing sector."

**Blair Qualey,
President, NCDA**



New NCDA Fund Puts VCC Students in the Pole Position



Watch the VCC 2025 Spring Student Awards Video



Moving Forward with the CCEAI + Campaign Cabinet

The plans and construction for the new VCC Centre for **Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation** (CCEAI) are proceeding with great excitement. In 2023, VCC held a ground blessing ceremony hosted by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Squamish) Nations to ensure the college moves this historic project forward in the right way. This marked the launch of VCC's long-term **Campus Plan**, which leverages the college's land holdings and assets to build innovative campuses that reflect a dedication to innovation, reconciliation, and sustainability.

Construction on the CCEAI is now well underway. Excavation is complete and construction of the building's superstructure began in June 2025 and will continue through December 2026.

The VCC Foundation will soon launch a comprehensive campaign to support the development of the CCEAI. This campaign is not only about raising funds: it is also about inviting others into our community, to contribute to VCC's future, and to support innovative education that will shape our region.



Our Fundraising Campaign Cabinet

In 2024, we took another major step in this journey by establishing a Campaign Cabinet: a group of dedicated, visionary, talented leaders who will steward this work into the wider community. Our sincere gratitude to:

Chief Ian Cambell | *Honorary Chair*

Ken Cretney | *Co-Chair*

Joy MacPhail | *Co-Chair*

Ginger Gosnell-Myers

Erik Jensen

Alister Mathieson

Ajay Patel

Blair Qualey

Jessie Williams

Joyce Yip



Laptop Lending Library

Expanding the [Laptop Lending Program](#) at VCC is a crucial step towards ensuring that all students have access to the technology needed to succeed academically. Thanks to our forward-thinking donors, including the Y.P. Heung Foundation and another generous family foundation, we purchased 40 new laptops that students can borrow for their studies.

This incredible project demonstrates VCC's commitment to equitable learning. To support students requiring specialized tools, VCC lending laptops are modified with software and other adaptive equipment like enhanced microphones.

By equipping students with essential tools, the initiative also bolsters academic success and enhances the overall educational experience at VCC. The Laptop Lending Library also promotes digital literacy, enabling students to develop critical digital literacy skills, and empowering them to navigate and excel in today's digital world.

We are incredibly grateful to the donors who helped make this project a reality.



Walter Sills Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

Walter Sills was involved in the transportation industry for more than 50 years, and his contributions were recognized by the National Transportation Week Committee through the creation of a scholarship in his honour. It is awarded to a student in the VCC Heavy Duty/Commercial Transport program who demonstrates, through action and effort, a strong commitment to the transportation industry.

This year's scholarship recipient, Parth Thakkar, holds a Bachelor of Business degree with a major in Accounting and a Diploma in Tourism. He is the owner of Viral Buff Lab, a small car detailing business. NNow back in school, Parth is pursuing studies in Heavy Mechanical Trades and has a message for his supporters:

"Thank you for choosing to make a difference through your donations. I appreciate your support more than words can express. With supporters like you, we, as mechanics, know we can achieve our goals. We can become better mechanics, drive this industry towards a better future, and make a difference in society. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all the donors for your generous contributions."



Left to Right: Walter Sills Scholarship Recipient Parth Thakkar with VCC President & CEO Ajay Patel

Flourish Gala Raises Record Funds for New CCEAI Classroom

In March, the VCC Foundation hosted **Flourish 2025**, our annual “green tie” fundraising event that showcases all that VCC has to offer. Alum chefs set up stations across three floors at the Broadway Campus to share their culinary creations. Guests enjoyed the delicious food, as well as wine from Naramata Bench Wineries Association and Nespresso martinis. A range of VCC departments also provided demonstrations – some including VR and simulations – to show what students learn while pursuing their education.

Hosted by media personality Fred Lee, the event brought a high energy live auction to new heights. Flourish raised a record-breaking \$239,000 toward establishing a classroom in the new **Centre for Clean Energy and Automotive Innovation**.

The VCC Foundation is grateful to the incredible sponsors who helped make the night a success and to everyone who attended and celebrated real learning for real change.

Watch the VCC 2025 Flourish Gala Video



Flourish Gala 2025



VCC Foundation Mission

Vancouver Community College (VCC) Foundation stimulates financial support for students and programs at VCC. Our board and staff ensure the prudent management of funds received and encourage the community's goodwill toward the college.

VCC Foundation is a registered charity and works together with individual donors and industry partners to build rewarding relationships.

Board Of Directors

Ken Cretney , <i>Chair</i>	Pehlaj Malhotra
Peter Van Dyke , <i>Treasurer</i>	Alister R. Mathieson
Mark Andrew , <i>Secretary</i>	Barb Steele
Geoff Bowman	Kay Wong-Alafriz
Zoran Kovacevic	Joyce Yip

VCC Representatives

Moira Gookstetter, *Executive Director, VCC Foundation*

Ajay Patel, *President & CEO, Ex-Officio*

Jeffrey Yu, *Vice Chair, Appointed*

